



Winston H. Hickox
*Secretary for
Environmental
Protection*

California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Los Angeles Region

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Gray Davis
Governor

SFUND RECORDS CTR
68403

December 10, 1999

Mr. Henry Khaw
8233 Keim Avenue
Rosemead, CA 91770

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CLEANUP PROGRAM, EL MONTE OPERABLE UNIT (EMOU)-
J&T CLEANERS AT 9117 VALLEY BLVD.
(FILE NO. 103.1069)

Dear Mr. Khaw:

In the last two years, new chemicals have been discovered in drinking water wells and shallow groundwater monitoring wells in the San Gabriel Valley Basin (Basin). These new chemicals are a set of chemicals called emergent chemicals, and so far include perchlorate, N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA), and 1,4-dioxane. Currently, research is underway to study the occurrence, adverse health effects, and remediation of these chemicals. One of these chemicals, 1,4-dioxane, is known to be associated with the use of 1,1,1-TCA.

In order to determine the occurrence and extent of these chemicals in Baldwin Park Operable Unit where they were first discovered in the Basin, Regional Board staff implemented a monitoring program there in 1998. Emergent chemicals, particularly, 1,4-dioxane, were also discovered in South El Monte Operable Unit (SEMOU). As a result of this discovery, an early action volatile organic treatment system installed by the San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority had to recently upgrade to include additional treatment system for 1,4-dioxane. Regional Board staff are trying to identify the source and occurrence of these chemicals in SEMOU.

We are directing you, along with EMOU groundwater monitoring participants, to implement groundwater sampling and analysis for the above chemicals for two episodes. The first should be conducted in January 2000 and results reported by February 29, 2000. The last episode should be conducted in April 2000, and results reported by May 30, 2000. All your groundwater monitoring wells shall be sampled. The water currently standing in your groundwater monitoring wells may not be representative of in-situ groundwater quality. Therefore, you are directed to remove the standing water in the wells before sampling so that water which is representative of the formation can replace the standing water. You shall also comply with appropriate detection limits for these chemicals which are as follows: 1) perchlorate, 4ug/L; 2) NDMA, 0.033 ug/L; and 3) 1,4-dioxane, 2ug/L.

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Henry Khaw

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If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call me at (213) 576-6727.

Sincerely,



Ejigu Solomon
Associate Engineering Geologist

cc: ~~Ms.~~ Bella Dizon, USEPA, Region IX

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